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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—"Has the attention of Government been drawn to the report on local administration for 1949 regarding the unsatisfactory nature of the administration of the Guntur District Board and if so, what steps have the Government taken in the matter?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—"Notice, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—"Sir, besides Guntur, several other District Boards are involved in debts. May I ask the Hon. Minister to investigate into those cases also?"

MR. SPEAKER :—"A separate question may be put."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"From the answer of the Hon. Minister it appears that the debt incurred by the Guntur District Board was more or less for purposes of election roads. Are election debts binding upon District Boards?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—"It was for road works, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—"I pass on to the next question. The Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue will reply." 10-50 a.m.

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH :—"On a point of order, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—"Order, Order."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNIAH :—"On a point of order Sir,—Question No. 188—Land Revenue గురించి వేసిన ప్రశ్నకు అర ఘంటు సేపు చర్చ కావాలని కోరుతున్నాను."

MR. SPEAKER :—"It is not a point of order. The hon. Member will resume his seat."

Board of Revenue.

* 188 *Q.*—SRI G. RAMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to abolish the office of the Board of Revenue?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"There is no proposal to abolish the office of the Board of Revenue at present."

SRI G. RAMA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that a major part of the work of the Members of the Revenue Board and Revenue Divisional Officers is only in the nature of making recommendations to the Government and hence they are doing post office work?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"Sir, the Revenue Board does not do the business of a post office; the post office does the post office business; the Revenue Board does many things which, if the hon. Member wants, I will let him know."

SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the sanctioned strength of the Revenue Board and if there is any proposal to increase or reduce the number? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" There are at present five Members. The question of increasing or decreasing the number is not engaging the attention of the Government now."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" In view of the fact that a large number of Members here are expressing a desire that the expenditure on the Revenue Board should be minimized, will the Government constitute an Enquiry Committee to go into the matter? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The whole question was gone into by the Land Revenue Reforms Committee and they submitted certain recommendations and proposals regarding this matter; they are under the consideration of the Government."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Does not the Revenue Board contain the accumulated wisdom of Collectors and experienced district officials which is helpful and useful to Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I wish the other hon. Members also realize what the hon. Member Mr. Balakrishnan has realized."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" What are the suggestions made by the Land Revenue Reforms Committee? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It is a voluminous report and so, I cannot reply to this interpellation at question-time."

SRI P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—" In view of the opinion expressed by the Hon. the Chief Minister about the necessity of retaining the Revenue Board which has also to look after the work of District Collectors, will the Government consider increasing the strength of the Revenue Board, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" It will be considered when it is felt necessary. We will try to do with the present strength now."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" In view of the long delay and red-tapism in the Revenue Board, will the Government change the present procedure of its working? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The word ' red-tapism ' is used in a very loose way. People are in a hurry no doubt. But things have to be done correctly. Hon. Members do not know the volume and nature of the records that are kept and have to be maintained on the revenue side in a central place in this State, and the Revenue Board is where we have the record of every field, who is in possession of it

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and its history. And there are many other departments on the revenue side which have to be looked after in the same way."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Was not the abolition of the Revenue Board one of the pet policies of the Congress? If so, why has it been given the go-by now? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" When there were Collectors of districts who were very senior and who thought very highly of themselves, this proposal was made. But such is not the case now."

Salur Panchayat Board.

* 189 Q.—SRI K. VENKATANARAYANA DORA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reason for converting the Salur Panchayat Board into a municipality ;

(*b*) the action taken on the petitions submitted by the people of Salur requesting the Government to abolish the municipality ;

(*c*) whether the Government will abolish the municipality at least now ; and

(*d*) the action taken upon the charges levelled against the Special Officer of the municipality?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (*a*) A municipality was constituted for Salur as the town, being the taluk headquarters and an important commercial centre, was badly in need of better amenities.

" (*b*) As the main grievance of the people was that they were burdened with additional taxation, taxes were reduced. No other action was considered necessary, as a municipality was necessary in the interests of the town.

" (*c*) No.

" (*d*) The matter is under enquiry by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards."

SRI K. VENKATANARAYANA, DORA ;—" నా ప్రశ్నకు జవాబు తెలుగులో కోరుతున్నాను, Sir."

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI ;—"(*a*) & (*b*) సాలూరు తాలూకా headquarters అయినందువల్లను, మరియు అది ముఖ్య వ్యాపారస్థలమైనందువల్లను అచ్చట కొన్ని వసతులు కావలసినందున, అది మునిసిపాలిటీ చేయబడెను. అయితే పన్నులు అధికంగా వేయబడినవని ప్రజలు కంప్లైంటు చేసినందువలన, పన్నులుకూడా తగ్గించబడినవి.

" (*c*) లేదు.

" (*d*) Inspector of Local Boards విచారిస్తున్నారు."